THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Central assistance is released to the State Governments (50:50) and Union Territory Administrations (100%) to support measures undertaken by them for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. During the year 1998-99 Rupees 1367.04 lakhs were released to the States/UTs towards relief and rehabilitation of victims of atrocities.

Government of Madhya Pradesh has been provided Central assistance of Rs. 273.27 lakhs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes victims of atrocities for relief during 1998-99.

Expansion of Activities of NIOH

382. SHRI C. RAMA CHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of representations have been made to Government to expand the activities of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, (NIOH);

(b) whether any effort has been made in this direction;

(c) whether there is a proposal to condict some camps in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Efforts have been made to expand the activities of NIOH. A Regional Chapter has been established at Dehradun. Efforts are being made to get a suitable space and collaborative agency to establish more regional chapters as part of the Composite Resource Centres to be set up in six places including the North-East. The Institute is also expanding its activities under Gramin Punarvas Yojana and is taking up 7 districts each covering 4 to 5 surrounding districts under this scheme which will be implemented in phases. Camps, other outreach activities and manpower training have been conducted in North-East States of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and in different districts of UP, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) Yes, Sir. A composite camp at West Godavari District in collaboration with the Lions Club has been planned in the month of March, 2000.

(d) Docs not arise.